Win/Spr 95

Historical Society of Palm Desert
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WINTER / SPRING 1995 "THE HOURGLASS" NEWSLETTER

ART SHOW - Remember the fantastic art show presented last spring by the Shadow Mountain Palette Club at the Historical Society headquarters on El Paseo? It's happening again, and you won't want to miss it! Those creative people have been busy on new works of art, and the date has been set for the week of March 19-25. The **opening reception** will be on **Sunday afternoon, March 19**. Come see, socialize, enjoy the paintings..... and, yes, they are for sale (with a percentage going to the Historical Society.) You will receive your invitation soon.

WESTERN PIT BARBECUE & COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

DATE: Saturday, April 8
TIME: 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
PLACE : Palm Desert Recreation Center
43-900 San Pablo
Civic Center Park
COST: $15.00

MENU: Western Beef Pit Barbecue
Coleslaw
B-B-Q Beans
Rolls w/ Butter or Margarine
Cake
Coffee, Tea or Punch

Sound good? You bet, and that's not all! How about live western music, art, entertainment, and door prizes? Proceeds will benefit the Historical Society.

Diners will be served continuously throughout the afternoon. Bring a folding chair so you can move outside and enjoy the entertainment in comfort. We've been promised a square dance and cloggers demonstration by the Side Winder Club, plus other surprises. Door prize drawings will take place each hour. It will be a fun afternoon for old timers, newcomers, and families. Y'all come, socialize and share your memories.

The B-B-Q committee has asked board members to sell ten tickets each, and two tickets will be mailed to each member..... please use them if you can. The **deadline for returning money or tickets = March 27.** There will be no meal tickets sold at the park. To request additional tickets call the Society office at 346-6588.

Prizes are needed. Ed Mullins is working on obtaining prizes and he'll appreciate any help you can give him. Do you have a favorite restaurant that would give a certificate for a complimentary meal, or a hairdresser who would donate a shampoo/set, or some other service person you could approach? Call Ed at 346-6588. There will be one grand prize, too, so keep your antenna beamed.

Since establishing headquarters at the old fire station, the Historical Society has emphasized preservation and community service. We've sponsored the annual Founder's Day when Marian Henderson presents the award to a deserving citizen in memory of her late husband, Clifford Henderson. The spring and fall luncheons feature interesting speakers on historical topics. In conjunction with the fire department and the schools, we present Mini-Musters to train Palm Desert third graders in fire-safety.

We know you love Palm Desert and want to have a vital part in preserving its history and in community service projects. Let's all get behind this fund-raising B-B-Q and make it an annual event. Fun and funds are not incompatible and one good fund-raiser lifts the spirit and supports the organization better than any number of so-so efforts. Can we count on **you**?

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WE ARE LOSING PIONEERS:

Our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of:

Evelyn Chevoor **Harlan Kittle** **Frank Little**

"Evie" Chevoor, a native of Massachusetts, was a 45-year resident of Palm Desert. She was founder and member of the Shadow Mountain Palette Club, a member of the Historical Society, and the 1991 recipient of the Founder's Day Award. Her artistic talent, charm and gentle, willing helpfulness will be missed at the Society and by her many friends.

A SALUTE TO ANNE - Did you identify the lady and two gentlemen in the last issue of the Hourglass? Anne Carpenter was a very active and much loved lady in the desert. Les Yoxsimer was a member of the Society and is now deceased. The other man was a much younger Roy Wilson who has had a distinguished career in education and city government, and was recently elected a Riverside County Supervisor.

During her 45 years in the desert Anne's life was so intertwined with the growth of Palm Desert that our fair city's history would be incomplete without mention of her. Many organizations and clubs can boast of having had her as part of their membership. Suffice to say, she was a builder and a leader without peer. Anne was the second president of the Historical Society, following Hal Kapp in office.

Recently Anne was honored by the Palm Springs Branch of the American Association of University Women. For the "Member Profile" in the Sept. issue of their publication, Lucille Fostvedt wrote (and we quote with permission):

> "Anne Carpenter -- just hearing her name puts a smile on the face of anyone who knew her. This petite, charming, white haired bundle of energy was in constant demand as a master/mistress of ceremonies. Her innovative installations of branch officers were legendary, fun, memorable, witty and always different. It was worth accepting an office to have Anne Carpenter install you! Born in Montana and a graduate of the University of Washington in Seattle, Anne taught high school English, history and drama. She and her husband moved to Palm Desert when it was a young desert community, and together they opened a furniture store. Though she had no children herself, she was interested in all young people. After her husband's death, she spent much time seeing that the history of Palm Desert was properly recorded and organized the Palm Desert Historical Society.
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> In 1970, the Ahmanson Theatre opened in Los Angeles and a group of us, including Anne, had season tickets for the Thursday afternoon matinees. We kept going for the next twenty years. Riding in together for lunch and the play gave us time to really know each other. Anne's comments on the show were as much fun as the production itself.
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> Anne developed diabetes and lost her eyesight, so she moved to a suburb of Seattle to live with her sister and be near the university where much scientific work is being done on her type of blindness."

Lady Mary Davis joined AAUW at Anne's invitation and writes movingly of the years of friendship, sharing and learning. Drama and poetry reflected Anne's love of words. Anne had a strong sense of the worth of women. In the same issue of "Sand Scripts", Lady Mary wrote:

A SALUTE TO ANNE (cont'd.)

"I only saw Anne angry once and then it was more like disgust than anger. It was at a branch meeting. We had been asked by the Association to give our assessment of the construction of the AAUW building in Washington, D.C. There was much discussion: 'too big,' 'too expensive,' 'they don't do anything for us,' and so on. Anne listened intently and then very quietly said, 'Women are cheap. How many of your husbands attend service clubs and contribute weekly to much less important causes? Is seems you could give much less, and only once.' A motion was presented and passed immediately.

Until she moved, Anne worked every home tour, both preparing the houses and conducting tours. She made all our name tags in her beautiful script. When there was a job to be done, she quietly said 'If there is no one else, I could do it.' And it was always done without equal.

Anne brought a bit of color to every meeting, both through her humor and her clothes, which were bright and happy. Many of them were tailored by her sister, Bernie, and were merely the outer image of the joy and love which emanated from within.

I know I miss her (as do my husband and sons) but didn't realize how much until I was asked to reflect on our friendship. I hope, Anne, you continue to have 'Days which are like a hot fudge sundae, with lots of whipped cream and nuts.'" Signed LOVE, a sentiment shared by all of us!

BOARD ACTION on January 25, 1995. Regular business was transacted and committee planning approved for spring events. Roger Keezer was appointed to fill a board vacancy and the following appointments approved as committee chairs:

Finance.....Ed Mullins
Fund Raising/Planning.....Gary Olesen
Membership/Volunteer Activities.....Jean Hollenbeck
Curatorial.....Ginny Folkers
Newsletter.....Theda Lundquist
Historical Survey & Exhibits.....Roger Keezer
Building & Maintenance.....Fay Bowie
Education & Mini-Muster.....Dan & B. J. Callahan

WORLD WAR II, remembered a half century later. At the recent Victory Celebration given by the College of the Desert Foundation Auxiliary at Marriott's Desert Springs, the W.W. II era was recalled by a fine display from the General Patton Memorial Museum of Chiriaco Summit.

Roger Keezer manned a table which added significantly to the ambience of the event. He used photographs from our Media Library and articles from his own personal collection of W.W. II memorabilia which included helmets, guns, shell casings and the like. These souvenirs are things Roger and his wife, Maria, gleaned in the European Theater of Operation. Some were found in a barn in Luxembourg, near where Maria had lived as a child.

Our Historical Society added to the atmosphere with a small but quality exhibit depicting the Palm Desert (then Palm Village) vehicle pool. It was a red, white and blue spangled evening!

Palm Village Vehicle Pool was organized during the spring of 1943 as a supply and repair facility serving the immense California, Nevada and Arizona Desert Training Center established by General George Patton Jr. Army engineers began closure in April 1944. During its short lifetime, the pool maintained tanks, field guns, trucks and motorized training equipment and supplied combat vehicles for divisions sent to North Africa. Extensive camp areas were positioned south of Highway 111. Administrative offices were in two large tents directly across Portola from the present-day Washington School. Other military activities extended south into the Deep Canyon Ranch of Phillip Boyd. Nine huge concrete repair platforms, 50 feet wide and 150 feet long, the last evidence of the war activity, were removed to facilitate the peacetime development of Shadow Mountain Club.

MORE HISTORY FROM THE W. W. II TIME SLOT:

Another well know rancher of the time was radio personality Edgar Bergen, friend of Cliff Henderson. The Bergen Ranch was located north of Palm Village where Portola met the wash. At that time Palm Village consisted of the Old Gillette water facility, a gas station and a small hotel. What changes a half century has wrought!

As the 50th anniversary of the end of W. W. II nears, we may expect more memories to surface. The 3-year service experience of our president, Bob Keedy, would fill volumes. A California native, Bob grew up in South Pasadena. He was captain of his high school baseball team and went on to graduate from the University of Washington in Seattle. He was employed and in his late twenties by the time Uncle Sam needed him. The story of how he started out as a Private without training in Hawaii (his company interceded to have him accepted at Officer's Candidate School in Fort Benning, Georgia, even though he was slightly over-age) and ended up as a commissioned officer in Italy makes for a fascinating yarn.

P.S.

Volunteers, please note your hours in the volunteer calendar each time you work at headquarters. Bonnie says, "Minimum time = 2 hours, even if you're not there the whole two hours."

Needed: Contributors to the "Hourglass." Let us know what your committee is doing. Members-at-large, be on the lookout for tidbits of history we can share with readers. Address contributions to: Historical Society of Palm Desert, P. O Box 77, Palm Desert, CA 92261 -- Attn: Theda Lundquist